

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 April 2004 (22.04.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/033465 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C07D 513/20**,
A61K 31/429, A61P 35/00, C07F 7/18 // (C07D 513/20,
319:00, 311:00, 277:00)

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2003/011194

(22) International Filing Date: 9 October 2003 (09.10.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
02447192.2 9 October 2002 (09.10.2002) EP
60/420,067 21 October 2002 (21.10.2002) US

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE,
GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR,
KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK,
MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT,
RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR,
TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

Published:

— *with international search report*
— *with amended claims*

Date of publication of the amended claims: 17 June 2004

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **2'' OXO-VORUSCHARIN AND DERIVATIVES THEREOF**

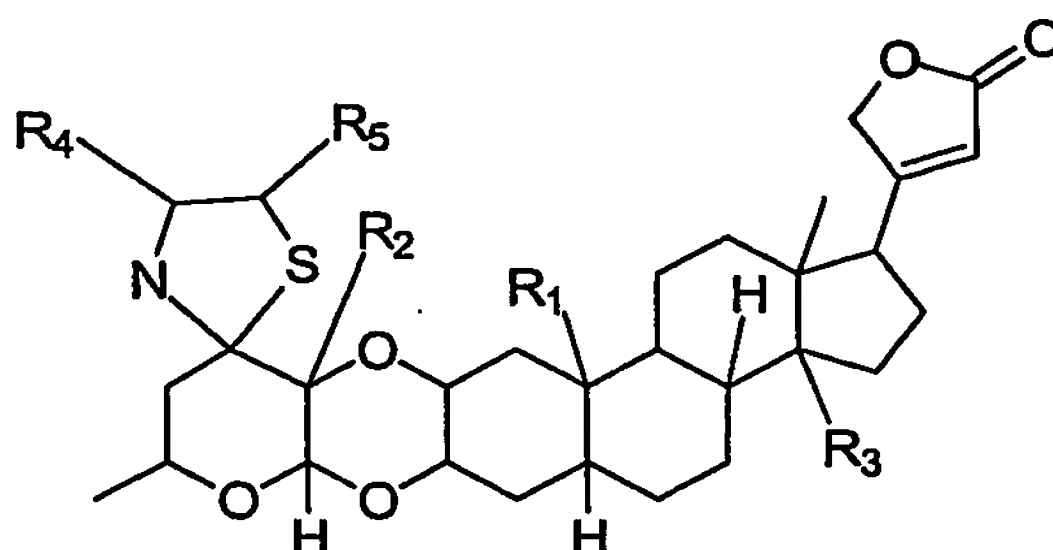
(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the novel compound 2'' oxo-voruscharin and derivatives. In addition, the present invention relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising the novel 2'' oxo-voruscharin or derivatives. The present invention further relates to the 2'' oxo-voruscharin and derivatives for use as a medicament and for use in the preparation of a medicament for treating cancer. The present invention also relates to a method of treating cancer.

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AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 4 May 2004 (04.05.04);
original claims 1-29 replaced by amended claims 1-31 (14 pages)]

1. A compound of the formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
formula I



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- wherein R¹ is selected from the group comprising hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthiocarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxythiocarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, arylthiocarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylalkylthiocarbonyl, aryloxyalkyl, arylthioalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹aryl, Het¹aralkyl, Het¹cycloalkyl, Het¹carbonyl, Het¹alkoxycarbonyl, Het¹alkylthiocarbonyl, Het¹oxycarbonyl, Het¹thiocarbonyl, Het¹alkanoyl, Het¹aralkanoyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het¹arylthioalkyl, Het¹aryloxycarbonyl, Het¹aralkoxycarbonyl, Het¹aroyl, Het¹oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹carbonyloxyalkyl, Het¹alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het¹aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het²alkyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²aralkyl, Het²carbonyl, Het²oxycarbonyl, Het²thiocarbonyl, Het²alkanoyl, Het²alkylthiocarbonyl, Het²alkoxycarbonyl, Het²aralkanoyl, Het²aralkoxycarbonyl, Het²aryloxycarbonyl, Het²aroyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, Het²arylthioalkyl, Het²oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²carbonyloxyalkyl, Het²alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het²aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cyano, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, aminoalkyl, CR⁶=NR⁷ or CR⁶=N(OR⁷), with R⁶ and R⁷ being independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

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wherein R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from the group comprising hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkylsilyloxy, arylsilyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, haloalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, aralkanoyloxy, aroyloxy, aryloxycarbonylalkyloxy, formyloxy, Het¹alkyloxy, Het¹oxy, Het¹oxyalkyloxy, Het¹aryloxy, Het¹aralkyloxy, Het¹cycloalkyloxy, Het¹carbonyloxy, Het¹oxycarbonyloxy, Het¹alkanoyloxy, Het¹aralkanoyloxy, Het¹aryloxyalkyloxy, Het¹aroyl, Het²oxy, Het²alkyloxy, Het²oxyalkyloxy, Het²aralkyloxy, Het²cycloalkyloxy, Het²alkanoyloxy, Het²aralkanoyloxy, Het²carbonyloxyl, Het²aryloxy, Het²aryloxyalkyloxy,

wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group comprising alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het¹, Het², cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)_t, hydroxy, cyano, halogen or amino optionally mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group comprising alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het¹, Het², Het¹alkyl, Het²alkyl, Het¹amino, Het²amino, Het¹alkylamino, Het²alkylamino, Het¹thio, Het²thio, Het¹alkylthio, Het²alkylthio, Het¹oxy and Het²oxy, OR^8 , SR^8 , $SO_2NR^8R^9$, $SO_2N(OH)R^8$, CN, $CR^8=NR^9$, $S(O)R^8$, SO_2R^8 , $CR^8=N(OR^9)$, N_3 , NO_2 , NR^8R^9 , $N(OH)R^8$, $C(O)R^8$, $C(S)R^8$, CO_2R^8 , $C(O)SR^8$, $C(O)NR^8R^9$, $C(S)NR^8R^9$, $C(O)N(OH)R^9$, $C(S)N(OH)R^8$, $NR^8C(O)R^9$, $NR^8C(S)R^9$, $N(OH)C(O)R^9$, $N(OH)C(S)R^8$, $NR^8CO_2R^9$, $NR^8C(O)NR^9R^{10}$, and $NR^8C(S)NR^9R^{10}$, $N(OH)CO_2R^8$, $NR^8C(O)SR^9$, $N(OH)C(O)NR^8R^9$, $N(OH)C(S)NR^8R^9$, $NR^8C(O)N(OH)R^9$, $NR^8C(S)N(OH)R^9$, $NR^8SO_2R^9$, $NHSO_2NR^8R^9$, $NR^8SO_2NHR^9$, $P(O)(OR^8)(OR^9)$,

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} being each independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R^4 is selected from the group comprising oxo, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkanediyl, alkyloxy, alkylthio, alkylamino, alkyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylcarbonylalkyl,

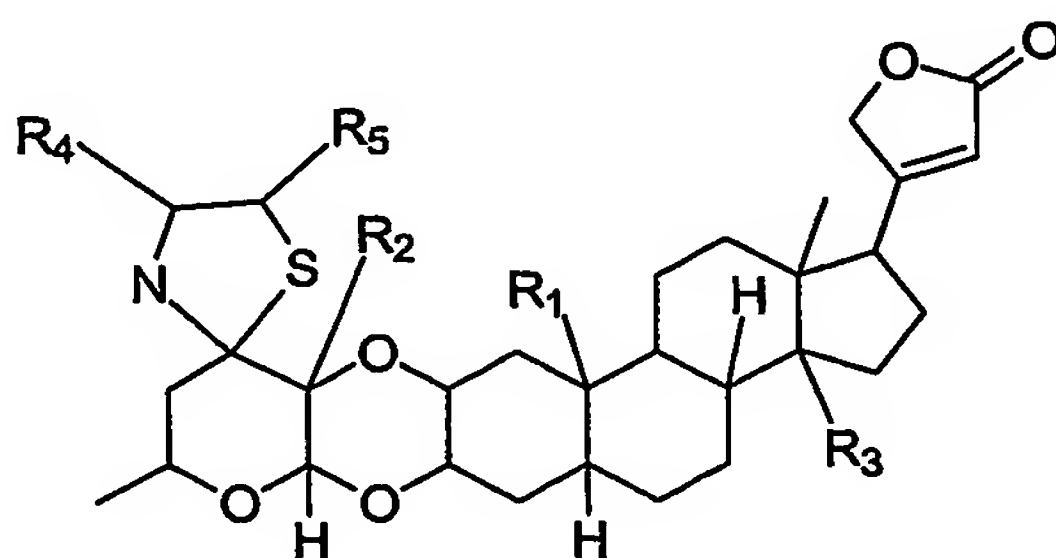
cycloalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylthio, cycloalkylamino, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, aryl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyloxy, aryloxy carbonyloxy, aralkoxycarbonyloxy, aryloxyalkyl, haloalkyloxy, haloalkylthio, haloalkylamino, hydroxyalkyl, aralkanoyl, aryloxy carbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹oxy, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹aryl, Het¹aralkyl, Het¹cycloalkyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹aroil, Het², Het²oxy, Het²alkyl; Het²oxyalkyl, Het²aralkyl, Het²cycloalkyl, Het²aryl, Het²alkanoyl, Het²aralkanoyl, Het²aroil, Het²aryloxyalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, aminoalkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group comprising alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het¹, Het², cycloalkyl, alkyloxy carbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)_t, hydroxy, cyano, halogen or amino optionally mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group comprising alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het¹, Het², Het¹alkyl, Het²alkyl, Het¹amino, Het²amino, Het¹alkylamino, Het²alkylamino, Het¹thio, Het²thio, Het¹alkylthio, Het²alkylthio, Het¹oxy and Het²oxy, OR¹¹, SR¹¹, SO₂NR¹¹R¹², SO₂N(OH)R¹¹, CN, CR¹¹=NR¹², S(O)R¹¹, SO₂R¹¹, CR¹¹=N(OR¹²), N₃, NO₂, NR¹¹R¹², N(OH)R¹¹, C(O)R¹¹, C(S)R¹¹, CO₂R¹¹, C(O)SR¹¹, C(O)NR¹¹R¹², C(S)NR¹¹R¹², C(O)N(OH)R¹², C(S)N(OH)R¹¹, NR¹¹C(O)R¹², NR¹¹C(S)R¹², N(OH)C(O)R¹², N(OH)C(S)R¹¹, NR¹¹CO₂R¹², NR¹¹C(O)NR¹²R¹³, and NR¹¹C(S)NR¹²R¹³, N(OH)CO₂R¹¹, NR¹¹C(O)SR¹², N(OH)C(O)NR¹¹R¹², N(OH)C(S)NR¹¹R¹², NR¹¹C(O)N(OH)R¹², NR¹¹C(S)N(OH)R¹², NR¹¹SO₂R¹², NHSO₂NR¹¹R¹², NR¹¹SO₂NHR¹², P(O)(OR¹¹)(OR¹²), wherein t is an integer between 1 and 2, R¹¹, R¹² and R¹³ are each independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl; and

wherein R⁵ is selected from the group comprising hydrogen, oxo, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkanediyl, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylcarbonylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, aryl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyloxy, aryloxy carbonyloxy, aralkoxycarbonyloxy, aryloxyalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aralkanoyl, aryloxy carbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹oxy, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹aryl, Het¹aralkyl, Het¹cycloalkyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹aroil, Het², Het²oxy, Het²alkyl; Het²oxyalkyl, Het²aralkyl, Het²cycloalkyl, Het²aryl, Het²alkanoyl, Het²aralkanoyl, Het²aroil, Het²aryloxyalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, aminoalkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group comprising alkyl, aralkyl,

aryl, Het¹, Het², cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)_t, hydroxy, cyano, halogen or amino optionally mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group comprising alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, aylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het¹, Het², Het¹alkyl, Het²alkyl, Het¹amino, Het²amino, Het¹alkylamino, Het²alkylamino, Het¹thio, Het²thio, Het¹alkylthio, Het²alkylthio, Het¹oxy and Het²oxy, OR¹¹, SR¹¹, SO₂NR¹¹R¹², SO₂N(OH)R¹¹, CN, CR¹¹=NR¹², S(O)R¹¹, SO₂R¹¹, CR¹¹=N(OR¹²), N₃, NO₂, NR¹¹R¹², N(OH)R¹¹, C(O)R¹¹, C(S)R¹¹, CO₂R¹¹, C(O)SR¹¹, C(O)NR¹¹R¹², C(S)NR¹¹R¹², C(O)N(OH)R¹², C(S)N(OH)R¹¹, NR¹¹C(O)R¹², NR¹¹C(S)R¹², N(OH)C(O)R¹², N(OH)C(S)R¹¹, NR¹¹CO₂R¹², NR¹¹C(O)NR¹²R¹³, and NR¹¹C(S)NR¹²R¹³, N(OH)CO₂R¹¹, NR¹¹C(O)SR¹², N(OH)C(O)NR¹¹R¹², N(OH)C(S)NR¹¹R¹², NR¹¹C(O)N(OH)R¹², NR¹¹C(S)N(OH)R¹², NR¹¹SO₂R¹², NHSO₂NR¹¹R¹², NR¹¹SO₂NHR¹², P(O)(OR¹¹)(OR¹²), wherein t is an integer between 1 and 2, R¹¹, R¹² and R¹³ are each independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1, having the formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

formula I



wherein R¹ is selected from the group comprising alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthiocarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxythiocarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, arylthiocarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylalkylthiocarbonyl, aryloxyalkyl, arylthioalkyl, haloalkyl,

hydroxyalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, aryloxyacetylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹aryl, Het¹aralkyl, Het¹cycloalkyl, Het¹carbonyl, Het¹alkoxyacetylalkyl, Het¹alkylthiocarbonyl, Het¹oxyacetylalkyl, Het¹thiocarbonyl, Het¹alkanoyl, Het¹aralkanoyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het¹arylthioalkyl, Het¹aryloxyacetylalkyl, Het¹aralkoxyacetylalkyl, Het¹aroyl, Het¹oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹carbonyloxyalkyl, Het¹alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het¹aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het²alkyl; Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²aralkyl, Het²carbonyl, Het²oxyacetylalkyl, Het²thiocarbonyl, Het²alkanoyl, Het²alkylthiocarbonyl, Het²alkoxyacetylalkyl, Het²aralkanoyl, Het²aralkoxyacetylalkyl, Het²aryloxyacetylalkyl, Het²aroyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, Het²arylthioalkyl, Het²oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²carbonyloxyalkyl, Het²alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het²aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cyano, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, aminoalkyl, CR⁶=NR⁷ or CR⁶=N(OR⁷), with R⁶ and R⁷ being independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R² and R³ are independently selected from the group comprising hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkylsilyloxy, arylsilyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, haloalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, aralkanoyloxy, aroyloxy, aryloxyacetylalkyloxy, formyloxy, Het¹alkyloxy, Het¹oxy, Het¹oxyalkyloxy, Het¹aryloxy, Het¹aralkyloxy, Het¹cycloalkyloxy, Het¹carbonyloxy, Het¹oxyacetylalkyloxy, Het¹alkanoyloxy, Het¹aralkanoyloxy, Het¹aryloxyalkyloxy, Het¹aroyl, Het²oxy, Het²alkyloxy; Het²oxyalkyloxy, Het²aralkyloxy, Het²cycloalkyloxy, Het²alkanoyloxy, Het²aralkanoyloxy, Het²carbonyloxy, Het²aryloxy, Het²aryloxyalkyloxy,

wherein R¹, R² and R³ are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group comprising alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het¹, Het², cycloalkyl, alkyloxyacetylalkyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)_n, hydroxy, cyano, halogen or amino optionally mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group comprising alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio,

alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het¹, Het², Het¹alkyl, Het²alkyl, Het¹amino, Het²amino, Het¹alkylamino, Het²alkylamino, Het¹thio, Het²thio, Het¹alkylthio, Het²alkylthio, Het¹oxy and Het²oxy, OR⁸, SR⁸, SO₂NR⁸R⁹, SO₂N(OH)R⁸, CN, CR⁸=NR⁹, S(O)R⁸, SO₂R⁸, CR⁸=N(OR⁹), N₃, NO₂, NR⁸R⁹, N(OH)R⁸, C(O)R⁸, C(S)R⁸, CO₂R⁸, C(O)SR⁸, C(O)NR⁸R⁹, C(S)NR⁸R⁹,
 5 C(O)N(OH)R⁹, C(S)N(OH)R⁸, NR⁸C(O)R⁹, NR⁸C(S)R⁹, N(OH)C(O)R⁹, N(OH)C(S)R⁸, NR⁸CO₂R⁹, NR⁸C(O)NR⁹R¹⁰, and NR⁸C(S)NR⁹R¹⁰, N(OH)CO₂R⁸, NR⁸C(O)SR⁹, N(OH)C(O)NR⁸R⁹, N(OH)C(S)NR⁸R⁹, NR⁸C(O)N(OH)R⁹, NR⁸C(S)N(OH)R⁹, NR⁸SO₂R⁹, NHSO₂NR⁸R⁹, NR⁸SO₂NHR⁹, P(O)(OR⁸)(OR⁹),

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ being each independently
 10 selected from the group comprising hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R⁴ is oxo and R⁵ is hydrogen or alkyl.

15 3. A compound according to claim 1,

wherein R¹ is selected from the group comprising hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl,
 20 arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹alkoxycarbonyl, Het¹oxycarbonyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het¹arylthioalkyl, Het¹aryloxycarbonyl, Het¹aralkoxycarbonyl, Het¹oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹carbonyloxyalkyl, Het¹alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl,
 25 Het¹aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²oxycarbonyl, Het²alkoxycarbonyl, Het²aralkoxycarbonyl, Het²aryloxycarbonyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, Het²arylthioalkyl, Het²oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²carbonyloxyalkyl, Het²alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het²aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, CR⁶=NR⁷, CR⁶=N(OR⁷),

30 with R⁶ and R⁷ being independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from the group comprising hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, aryloxycarbonylalkyloxy, formyloxy, Het¹alkyloxy, Het¹oxy, Het¹oxyalkyloxy, Het¹aryloxy, Het¹aralkyloxy, Het¹cycloalkyloxy, Het¹carbonyloxy, Het¹alkanoyloxy, Het¹aralkanoyloxy, Het¹aryloxyalkyloxy, Het²oxy, Het²alkyloxy; Het²oxyalkyloxy, Het²aralkyloxy, Het²cycloalkyloxy, Het²alkanoyloxy, Het²aralkanoyloxy, Het²carbonyloxy, Het²aryloxy, Het²aryloxyalkyloxy,

wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; and

wherein R^4 is selected from the group comprising, oxo, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl and R^5 is hydrogen, oxo, hydroxyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl.

4. A compound according to claim 1 or 2,

wherein R^1 is selected from the group comprising alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹alkoxycarbonyl, Het¹oxycarbonyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het¹arylthioalkyl, Het¹aryloxycarbonyl, Het¹aralkoxycarbonyl, Het¹oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹carbonyloxyalkyl, Het¹alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het¹aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²oxycarbonyl, Het²alkoxycarbonyl, Het²aralkoxycarbonyl, Het²aryloxycarbonyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, Het²arylthioalkyl, Het²oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²carbonyloxyalkyl, Het²alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het²aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, $CR^6=NR^7$, $CR^6=N(OR^7)$,

with R^6 and R^7 being independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from the group comprising hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy,

silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, aryloxycarbonylalkyloxy, formyloxy, Het¹alkyloxy, Het¹oxy, Het¹oxyalkyloxy, Het¹aryloxy, Het¹aralkyloxy, Het¹cycloalkyloxy, Het¹carbonyloxy, Het¹alkanoyloxy, Het¹aralkanoyloxy, Het¹aryloxyalkyloxy, Het²oxy, Het²alkyloxy; Het²oxyalkyloxy, Het²aralkyloxy, Het²cycloalkyloxy, Het²alkanoyloxy, Het²aralkanoyloxy, Het²carbonyloxyl, Het²aryloxy, Het²aryloxyalkyloxy,

wherein R¹ R² and R³ are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; and
wherein R⁴ is oxo and R⁵ is hydrogen or alkyl.

5. A compound according to claim 1, 2 or 4,

wherein R¹ is selected from the group comprising alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het¹arylthioalkyl, Het¹oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, Het²arylthioalkyl, Het²oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, CR⁶=NR⁷, CR⁶=N(OR⁷),

with R⁶ and R⁷ being independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R² and R³ are independently selected from the group comprising hydroxyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, formyloxy, Het¹carbonyloxy, Het¹alkanoyloxy, Het¹aralkanoyloxy, Het²carbonyloxyl, Het²alkanoyloxy, Het²aralkanoyloxy,

wherein R¹ R² and R³ are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; and
wherein R⁴ is oxo and R⁵ is hydrogen or alkyl.

6. A compound according to any of claims 1, 2, 4 to 5, wherein R¹ is selected from the group comprising alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylthioalkyl, carboxyl, formyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het¹arylthioalkyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, Het²arylthioalkyl, optionally substituted by one or more

substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; wherein R² and R³ are hydroxyl and wherein R⁴ is oxo and R⁵ is hydrogen.

7. A compound according to any of claims 1, 2, 4 to 6, wherein R¹ is selected from the group comprising alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, carboxyl, formyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; wherein R² and R³ are hydroxyl, R⁴ is oxo and R⁵ is hydrogen.

8. A compound according to any of claims 1, 2, 4 to 7, wherein R¹ is selected from the group comprising alkyl, carboxyl, formyl; wherein R² and R³ are hydroxyl, and wherein R⁴ is oxo and R⁵ is hydrogen.

9. A compound according to claim 8, wherein R¹ is formyl, R² and R³ are hydroxyl R⁴ is oxo and R⁵ is hydrogen.

10. A compound according to claim 1 or 3,
wherein R¹ is selected from the group comprising hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het¹arylthioalkyl, Het¹oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, Het²arylthioalkyl, Het²oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, CR⁶=NR⁷, CR⁶=N(OR⁷),

with R⁶ and R⁷ being independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R² and R³ are independently selected from the group comprising hydroxyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, formyloxy, Het¹carbonyloxy, Het¹alkanoyloxy, Het¹aralkanoyloxy, Het²carbonyloxy, Het²alkanoyloxy, Het²aralkanoyloxy,

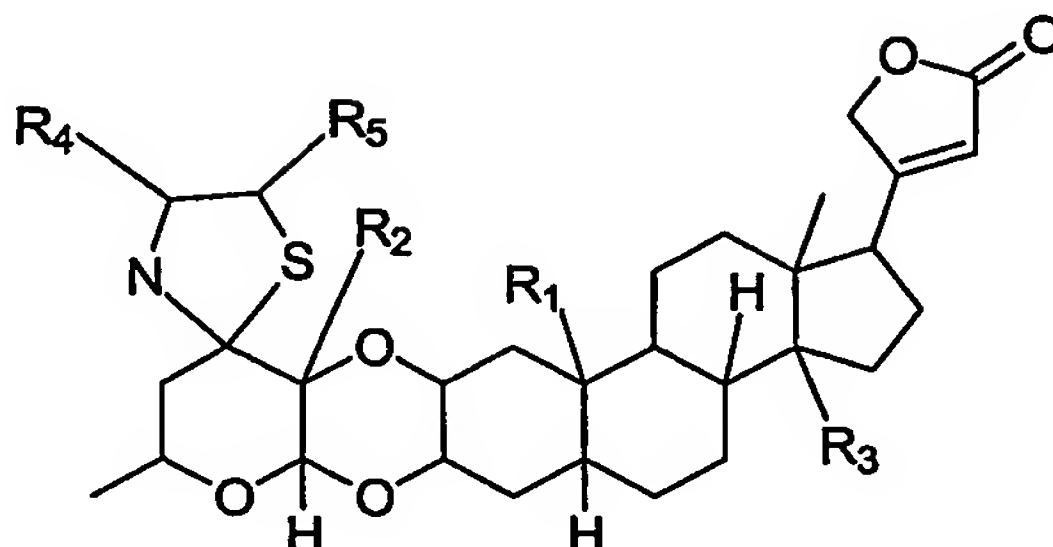
wherein R¹ R² and R³ are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; and

wherein R⁴ is oxo, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, alkenyl, arylcarbonylaryl, alkylcarbonylalkyl and R⁵ is hydrogen or alkyl.

11. A compound according to any of claims 1, 3 or 10, wherein R¹ is hydroxyalkyl, R² and R³ are hydroxyl, R⁴ is oxo and R⁵ is hydrogen.
12. A compound according to any of claims 1, 3 or 10, wherein R¹ is selected from the group comprising hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylthioalkyl, carboxyl, formyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het¹arylthioalkyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, Het²arylthioalkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; wherein R² and R³ are hydroxyl and wherein R⁴ is hydroxyalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl and R⁵ is hydrogen.
13. A compound according to any of claims 1, 3, 10 or 12, wherein R¹ is selected from the group comprising hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, carboxyl, formyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; wherein R² and R³ are hydroxyl, R⁴ is hydroxyalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl and R⁵ is hydrogen.
14. A compound according to any of claims 1, 3, 10, 12 or 13, wherein R¹ is selected from the group comprising alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxyl, formyl; wherein R² and R³ are hydroxyl, and wherein R⁴ is arylcarbonylalkyl and R⁵ is hydrogen.
15. A compound according to claim 14, wherein R¹ is hydroxyalkyl, R² and R³ are hydroxyl, R⁴ is arylcarbonylalkyl and R⁵ is hydrogen.
16. A compound according to claim 15, wherein R¹ is hydroxymethylene, R² and R³ are hydroxyl, R⁴ is phenylcarbonylmethylene and R⁵ is hydrogen.

17. A compound according to claim 1 having the formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

formula I



5 wherein R¹ is selected from the group comprising alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, silyloxyalkyl, carboxyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹alkoxycarbonyl, Het¹oxycarbonyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het¹arylthioalkyl, Het¹aryloxycarbonyl, Het¹aralkoxycarbonyl, Het¹oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹carbonyloxyalkyl, Het¹alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het¹aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²oxycarbonyl, Het²alkoxycarbonyl, Het²aralkoxycarbonyl, Het²aryloxycarbonyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, Het²arylthioalkyl, Het²oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²carbonyloxyalkyl, Het²alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het²aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, CR⁶=NR⁷, CR⁶=N(OR⁷),

20 with R⁶ and R⁷ being independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

 wherein R² and R³ have the same definition as in claim 1;

 wherein R¹, R² and R³ are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group as indicated in claim 1, and

25 wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are hydrogen or alkyl.

18. A compound according to claim 17,

wherein R^1 is selected from the group comprising alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, silyloxyalkyl, carboxyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het¹arylthioalkyl, Het¹oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, Het²arylthioalkyl, Het²oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, $CR^6=NR^7$, $CR^6=N(OR^7)$, with R^6 and R^7 being independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R^2 and R^3 have the same definition as in claim 1;

wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group as indicated in claims 1, and

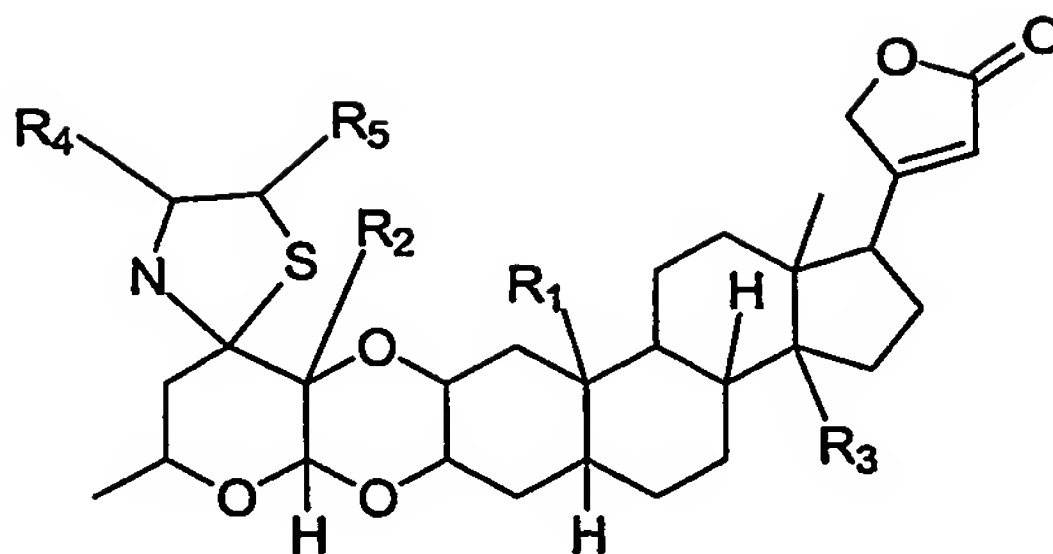
wherein R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen or alkyl.

19. A compound according to claim 17 or 18, wherein R^1 is selected from the group comprising alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, carboxyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het¹arylthioalkyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, Het²arylthioalkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; wherein R^2 and R^3 are hydroxyl and wherein R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen or alkyl.

20. A compound according to any of claims 17 to 19, wherein R^1 is selected from the group comprising alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, carboxyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; wherein R^2 and R^3 are hydroxyl and wherein R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen.

21. A compound according to claim 1, having the formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

formula I



wherein R^1 is selected from the group comprising hydroxyalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, silyloxyalkyl, carboxyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹alkoxycarbonyl, Het¹oxycarbonyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het¹arylthioalkyl, Het¹aryloxycarbonyl, Het¹aralkoxycarbonyl, Het¹oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het¹carbonyloxyalkyl, Het¹alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het¹aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²oxycarbonyl, Het²alkoxycarbonyl, Het²aralkoxycarbonyl, Het²aryloxycarbonyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, Het²arylthioalkyl, Het²oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het²carbonyloxyalkyl, Het²alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het²aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, $CR^6=NR^7$, $CR^6=N(OR^7)$,

with R^6 and R^7 being independently selected from the group comprising hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het¹, Het¹alkyl, Het¹aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R^1 is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group as indicated in claim 1, and

wherein R^2 and R^3 are hydroxyl and wherein R^4 is replaced by a double bond between the N atom and the C carbon atom of the N-containing heterocyclic ring of formula I; and wherein R^5 is hydrogen.

22. A compound according to claim 21, wherein R^1 is selected from the group comprising alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, carboxyl,

Het¹oxyalkyl, Het¹aryloxyalkyl, Het¹alkyloxyalkyl, Het²oxyalkyl, Het²alkyloxyalkyl, Het²aryloxyalkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; wherein R² and R³ are hydroxyl and wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are hydrogen.

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23. A compound according to claim 22, wherein R¹ has the same definition as in claim 20, wherein R² and R³ are hydroxyl; wherein R⁴ is replaced by a double bond between the N atom and the C carbon atom of the N-containing heterocyclic ring of formula I; and wherein R⁵ is hydrogen.

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24. Compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are selected as in Table A.

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25. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any of claims 1-24.

26. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 9.

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27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 11.

28. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 24 for use as a medicament.

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29. Use of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 24 for the preparation of a medicament for treating cancer.

30. Use of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 24 in the treatment of cancer.

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31. Method of treating cancer comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 25 to 27.